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TENBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1951



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

1951

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

<i>Name of Parishes.</i>	<i>Councillors.</i>
BAYTON	E. EVANS.
BOCKLETON	MISS PRESCOTT.
EASTHAM	K. D. BRIGGS.
HANLEY	P. KERBY.
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	REV. A. P. RANDLE. J. BATLEY.
KYRE	REV. J. K. H. THOMAS.
LINDRIDGE	COL. E. G. WALLACE. C. H. C. PARTRIDGE.
MAMBLE	B. DAVIES.
PENSAX	W. G. ABRAHAM.
ROCHFORD	W. G. MAUND (<i>Chairman</i>).
STANFORD WITH ORLETON	H. MORRIS.
STOCKTON	CAPT. A. ASTLEY JONES.
STOKE BLISS	A. LAWRENCE.
TENBURY	J. E. BUFTON. COL. T. C. FILLERY. J. J. FOSTER. H. JONES. W. MIDDLETON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH...	R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
SURVEYOR, SANITARY INSPECTOR, WATERWORKS ENGINEER	J. E. PARKINSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1951.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,250
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1951	...								5,460
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,738
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,165
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£74 3 10

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises fourteen parishes, and is entirely rural in character, except for the market town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult male population.

During the autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop-pickers, mostly women and children, who are brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms.

There are many small holdings in the area, and the amount of unemployment varies very little.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
			1951.	1950.
Legitimate	47	30	77	71
Illegitimate	4	Nil	4	7
Total	51	30	81	78
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	14.8	14.2
Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	15.5	15.8

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	61.7	12.7	

DEATHS

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	13.5	15.1
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	12.5	11.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepis	...	...	...	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0	0

INFANT MORTALITY under one

year of age:

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS

under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	24.6	51.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	0	36.3
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	29.6	29.8

	Total	Total
	1951	1950
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

Reference No.					Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	1	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	0	0	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	2	2	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	0	0	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	0	0	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	3	3	0
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	5	5	6
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	1	1	4
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	1	1	0
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	5	5	6
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	1	1	0
22.	Influenza	...	...	3	3	5
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	4	5
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	...	0	0	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	0	0	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	2	2	0
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	6	6	1
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	0	0	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	1	0
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	1	1	0
				<hr/> 37	<hr/> 37	<hr/> —

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the area I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J. E. Parkinson, who has been Sanitary Inspector of the area since May, 1932, and who is also Building Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer for the area.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Worcester County Council as "Local Health Authority." The ambulance is stationed at Tenbury.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The County Council Laboratory at Worcester undertakes the examination of producer samples of food, milk and water. The remaining bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITALS

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though, being on the other side of the river, it is actually in Burford, Salop, it receives cases chiefly from the town and district of Tenbury.

The Hospital has fifteen beds for medical and surgical cases, and one cot, and is very well equipped.

For Infectious Diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is used.

The Blakebrook Hospital at Kidderminster is also available, and for Maternity cases accommodation is provided in three Maternity Hospitals.

All hospitals are the responsibility of the Midland Regional Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS

Dispensary and Sanatorium treatment is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest hospital dispensaries are Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester. There are sanatoria at Knightwick and St. Wulstans, Malvern.

The Local Health Authority are responsible for prevention and after-care and the administration is undertaken by the Aftercare Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Treatment and supervision is arranged at the nearest hospital centre, i.e. Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also act as Midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors.

Two of these Nurses live at Tenbury Hospital, the other two residing in outlying parishes, and their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

The administration of this service is the responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER

Regular samples of the supply to the town of Tenbury have been taken and have proved satisfactory on analysis. The quantity is variable and requires to be augmented at times from the Elan Aqueduct.

The water is not plumbo solvent, but has an aggressive action on zinc and wrought iron, requiring the use of lead or copper piping. (See full report by Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer).

Many of the wells and springs and small private piped supplies have proved unsatisfactory on analysis. The consumers are advised what action to take according to the individual circumstances.

The Council's water scheme prepared under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, remains the subject of negotiation and investigation with the Ministry of Health and other Authorities affected. No progress can yet be reported.

Number of houses supplied from Public Mains :

Parish.	No. of houses supplied from Stand-pipe Taps.	No. of houses supplied direct from Mains.
TENBURY	...	408
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	...	Nil
LINDRIDGE	...	Nil
MAMBLE	...	Nil
PENSAX	...	Nil
BAYTON	...	Nil
STOCKTON	...	Nil
STANFORD	...	Nil
EASTHAM	...	Nil
HANLEY	...	Nil
ROCHFORD	...	Nil
KYRE	...	Nil
STOKE BLISS	...	Nil
BOCKLETON	...	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

1. Tenbury Town

The conditions described in my last Report still remain unchanged. A scheme for the provision of new sewers and outfall works has not yet been received and considered by the Council—a most unsatisfactory position for a town of this size.

2. Rural District

There is little change to report, except that a small disposal plant has been installed to serve Council houses at Woodgates Green.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only serious pollution known to be occurring is that of the River Teme and Kyre Brook at Tenbury.

SCHOOLS

A limited amount of re-decoration has been undertaken during the year, but no major improvements to sanitary facilities. It is regretted that improvements in the facilities at Bayton and Eastham have not yet been effected.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

During the year six houses were in course of erection at Woodgates Green. No houses were completed by private enterprise. Schemes were in preparation at the end of the year for the construction of twelve houses at Newnham Bridge.

There were 180 applications for Council Houses in the district on 31st December.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk Supply.
2. Meat and other foods.

See report of Sanitary Inspector.

No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES. NOTIFICATIONS.

During the year I have received notifications of the following cases:

	Cases.		Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	2	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	4	...	Nil
Measles	...	8	...	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	Nil	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	1	...	Nil

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria in infancy and the need for a reinforcing dose on reaching school age has been explained to parents. Immunisation is carried out at each session in the Welfare Centre and during my visits to the schools.

Number of children under 5 who received Primary Courses	56
Number of children over 5 who received Primary Courses	15
Number of children who received Reinforcing doses	49

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

3 cases were notified during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	
1	
5	
10	
15	
25	...	1	...		...		...
35	1	...	
45	...	1	...		...	1	...	
55	...	1	...		...		...
65	
	1	2			1	1		

No action was necessary, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were in the register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis:

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
14	...	12	5 ... 7

CONCLUSION

The progress made with housing during the past year has been disappointing, and the waiting list is little changed. It is to be hoped that the coming year will bring more houses to alleviate the plight of those condemned to live in overcrowded and unsatisfactory conditions.

The provision of an adequate system of sewers and outfall works in the town of Tenbury should be undertaken without further delay.

I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1951.

WATER

The town of Tenbury is supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Clee Hill, the water being drawn from the Millstone Grit formations.

A connection between the Birmingham Water Conduit from Elan Valley and the Tenbury intake chamber gives a supplementary supply. The effects of increase and decrease in the rate of intake from Tenbury's source can be rectified by the turn of a valve on the supplementary supply connection.

In the rural parts of the district, the mode of supply, generally, is by wells and springs. There are a few small private piped supplies.

TENBURY WATERWORKS

At the beginning of the year the yield at the Council's own source was greater than the consumption rate. By September, the rate of intake decreased and it was necessary to use the supplementary supply from the Birmingham Conduit.

MAINS IMPROVEMENTS

Gravity Main, Parish of Nash

The scheme of diverting a portion of the gravity main between the source and the reservoir was completed during the month of April. The work consisted of laying approximately one mile of 6in. pipes on a contour about 100 feet lower than a portion of the old gravity main. The diversion has increased considerably the carrying capacity of the gravity main.

It is intended, in the not too distant future, to increase by duplication, the carrying capacity of the gravity main between the lower end of the new diversion and the reservoir.

MAINS IMPROVEMENTS

Church Street, Cross Street and Bromyard Road

Late in the year, materials began to arrive for an approved scheme for improving the distribution mains in Church Street, Cross Street and Bromyard Road.

TENBURY TOWN WATER—ANALYSES

Copies of two samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year are as follows:

26th April, 1951

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days,

37° C.	Nil per 100 ml.
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Probable number of faecal coli	Nil per cent.
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14th September, 1951

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days,

37° C.	Nil per 100 ml.
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Probable number of faecal coli	Nil per cent.
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WATER SUPPLIES TO NEW COUNCIL HOUSING SITES

During the year a scheme for supplying water to six new Council Houses at Woodgates Green was completed. The works consist of a 200 ft. Bore with Submersible pump and a steel water tower supporting a 2,000 gallon tank.

Works of water supply for twelve proposed Council Houses at Newnham Bridge were commenced. A 5,000 gallon reservoir was constructed and the supply will be taken from an 80 ft. borehole previously sunk near to the site.

Surveys were made for the purpose of obtaining water supplies from underground sources on proposed Council housing sites at Rochford and Flith Common and at Mamble. Boring was commenced towards the end of the year on the Rochford site and at 120 feet a good supply was obtained.

WATER—PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Twenty-two samples of water were taken from private supplies during the year. A number were found to be defective in quality and in these cases appropriate action was taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There is still a large number of pail-closets in the township of Tenbury, very few being converted to the water carriage system during the year. It is necessary to collect closet pails in the early morning on three days each week and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find labour for this unpleasant job.

Conversion of all pail-closets in the built-up area is a matter which should soon receive serious consideration.

The provision of a new sewerage system in the town of Tenbury, together with outfall works for the treatment of sewage is also an urgent matter.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

In Tenbury town, collections of refuse are made at least once weekly and in the rural parishes once every three weeks. Refuse is disposed of by tipping into an old gravel quarry at Kyrewood, situate about one mile from the town. The scheme works fairly satisfactorily, but could be much improved if additional sites for tips in the rural district were available.

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE DISTRICT

VERMINOUS OR DIRTY PREMISES

Two cases were dealt with under this heading. Several cases of fly infestations were also dealt with, good results being obtained with D.D.T. powder.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the Council were without the services of a Rodent Operator and as a result work under this heading was limited.

INNS AND REFRESHMENT HOUSES

Inspections were made of the sanitary accommodation provided at Refreshment Houses, Inns and other Public Houses in the district.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Regular inspections were made at the few small factories in the district and small minor defects were dealt with.

**PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH
House Drainage, etc. (Excluding New Houses)**

New Drainage Provided :

(a) To sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) To cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number trapped, ventilated or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks, urinals dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of additional W.C.s installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defects to sewers remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances arising from dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisances arising from defective cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Other nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Visits in connection with Tenbury waterworks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	584
Visits in connection with private water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
Letters written during the year	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	758

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during the year :

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By the County Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	211
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	260
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	2
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	4
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	1

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers...	72
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts (Housing only) :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—Informal ...	37
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	1
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4 Overcrowding:—

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	Not known
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	3
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	1

HOUSING—COUNCIL HOUSES

At the end of the year the Council had 164 occupied houses in the district. Six houses at Woodgates Green, Knighton-on-Teme, were nearing completion and work of converting a former Land Army Hostel at Tenbury into ten flats had commenced.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

The work under this heading is carried out by my department.

During the year, 25 applications for permission to develop were dealt with. Of these, 22 applications were approved. One application was refused, one not proceeded with and the remaining one was treated as "permitted development."

PLANS APPROVED (Under Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 and Building Byelaws)

New Houses	3
Alterations and Improvements to Housing Accommodation ...	14
Plans other than housing	17
Caravan Sites	1

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING (Defence Regulation 56a)

In consequence of a continued relaxation in the control of civil building operations, the work in my department under this heading has not been so heavy as in previous years.

Thirty-one Licences were issued covering works to the value of £10,670.

Thirteen Licences were issued direct by the Ministry of Works for building operations in the district covering work to the value of £9,512.

FOOD

During the year inspections were made at premises where food was prepared or sold and where necessary attention was called to the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and byelaws made thereunder.

283 lbs. of meat and other foods were found to be unfit for human consumption.

MILK

During the year a Pasteurising Depot was established at West View Terrace, Tenbury and a licence in respect of these premises was issued to Mr. W. T. Davies, of Woodgates Green, Knighton-on-Teme.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Since early in the last war, meat has been supplied to the district from a central abattoir at Kidderminster. During the intervening years the private slaughter houses in the district have been used for emergency slaughter only.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

Inspections were made of pickers' quarters before and during the season.

About the middle of September, Dr. E. Donaldson, a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, visited the district and inspected several camps.

Following upon Dr. Donaldson's visit the Minister wrote expressing his appreciation of the facilities accorded to Dr. Donaldson during his visit. The Minister also stated that he was glad to learn that the standard of hygiene was good in most of the hop-pickers' camps.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, fellow Officers and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer.

